

**Legal Notice
Umatilla National Forest
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest**

**Granite Creek Watershed Mining Project
Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Record of Decision
45 Day Notice and Objection Period**

The Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests have considered public comment and have prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and draft Record of Decision (ROD) for the Granite Creek Watershed Mining Project. These documents are available on the Forest Service website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=2209>.

A paper copy or CD of the document can be obtained by contacting Chris Helberg (Minerals Administrator) at 541-427-5351, or by emailing chelberg@fs.fed.us.

This project is subject to pre-decisional administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B, also called the “objection process.” The pre-decisional administrative review process replaced the appeal process in March of 2013. The regulation provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to file an objection to a project before the final decision is signed. This allows interested individuals and organizations to advise the Deciding Official about concerns regarding the final decision before the decision is made.

Only individuals or organizations that submitted specific written or oral comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (in this case, during the scoping period and 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIS) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Notices of objection must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8. Objections can be submitted in writing, either electronically or in hard copy but must be filed with the Reviewing Officer within 45 days from the date of this publication of notice of the opportunity to object in the *Baker City Herald* and *East Oregonian*. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection to this decision should not rely upon dates of timeframe information provided by any other source.

Minimum requirements of an objection are described at 36 CFR 218.8(d). An objection must include a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.

Objections may be sent as follows:

Postal delivery (via USPS) to Reviewing Officer, Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Headquarters, Attn: 1570 Appeals and Objections, 1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A, Baker City, OR 97814, or to Reviewing Officer, Forest Supervisor Genevieve Masters, Umatilla National Forest Headquarters, 72510 Coyote Road, Pendleton, Oregon 97801. Objections delivered by mail must be received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period.

Emailed to objections-pnw-wallowa-whitman@fs.fed.us or to objections-pnw-umatilla@fs.fed.us with OBJECTION and “Granite Creek Watershed Mining Project” in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of an actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. Emails submitted to addresses other than the ones listed above or in formats other than those listed above or containing viruses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the objector to confirm receipt of objections submitted by electronic mail. For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt, it is the sender’s responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means;

Hand delivered to Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya, Objection Reviewing Officer, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Headquarters, Attn: 1570 Appeals and Objections, 1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A, Baker City, OR 97814, or to Forest Supervisor Genevieve Masters, Objection Reviewing Officer, Umatilla National Forest Headquarters, Attn: 1570 Appeals and Objections, 72510 Coyote Road, Pendleton, Oregon 97801. Hand deliveries can occur between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday, except legal holidays

Faxed to Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya at (541) 523-6392 or to Forest Supervisor Genevieve Masters at (541) 278-3730 with OBJECTION and “Granite Creek Watershed Mining Project” noted on the cover sheet.

For further information about the Granite Creek Watershed Mining FEIS, the draft Record of Decision, or the administrative review process, contact Sophia Millar, Environmental Coordinator, Wallowa Mountains Office, 201 East Second Street / PO Box 905 Joseph, OR 97846, (541) 263-1735, or smillar@fs.fed.us.

Publication Date: March 16, 2016